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Kindly note that the scope of the journal has recently changed. Several articles in this issue were under consideration before this change was initiated.

For insight into the present scope, potential authors of Gene articles are referred to the description published at the front of this issue, as well as to the Editorial and contents of issue 174/1. All information about Gene, including tables of contents, can also be found at:

http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/gene or http://www.elsevier.com/locate/gene

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